

From: Steve Damer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:59am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the proposed settlement is ridiculous. Microsoft abused their monopoly, and it paid off for them. The only way to stop them from doing it again is to either make them incapable of doing it again (and I don't mean just make them promise to stop), or to punish them so severely that they regret having done it. The proposed settlement doesn't make it impossible for them to do it again (all they have to do is break their promise, and we know they're willing to do that), and it doesn't punish them particularly harshly. I think a much more appropriate punishment would be to require them to publish the Windows API (with further sanctions if someone discovers a discrepancy between what they publish and what the API does). This would strongly reduce their ability to use their operating system monopoly to gain an unfair edge in the sale of other types of software.

Steve